

COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY. SAMUEL G SMITH HILLSBORO. W. VA. POCAHONTAS CO.

Pocahontas County has several chain and company stores, the West Virginia Pulp And Paper Company at Cass, have a large general store that was established about 1900, Durbin Mercantile at Durbin and Bartow Supply at Bartow all company stores. At Marlinton you find an A. & P store and one owned by C. J Casdorf of Ronceverte who has a chain of stores besides the one in Marlinton they have one at Hillsboro competing with home owned stores owned by R. D Moore proprietor of Hillsboro Cut Price Store, formerly owned by M. L Isbell. And another general store owned by W. T Walker, these stores all handle country produce, that represents the surplus of what the farmers produce in Pocahontas County.

Hillsboro has one hotel operated by R. W Rogers which has a splendid trade as many motorists prefer a small town to the larger one on account of noise, J. W Siple and W. C McClune operated hotels in Hillsboro until a few years back when Siples was destroyed by fire and McClunes closed due to advanced age and sickness in the family.

At Durbin you find Hotel Wilmoth, at Marlinton, Hotel Marlin, Sewel Statons Hotel, Clarks Home Hotel, Grimes Hotel that was formerly known as Stager Hotel. Pocahontas County has many tourist homes at Hillsboro you find one operated by Mrs. H. V Beard, At Millpoint Cliffside Tourists, at the Wallaces and operated by Cora Cloonan, at Marlinton we find two one by Mrs. Jack Richardson

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er operated by Mrs. S.J. Rexrode, and many more throughout the county
e care of the traveling trade during the summer months. In the early days
when we had the horse drawn vehicles, and all stock were driven to market many
farmers that had large houses accommodated the traveling public and one of the
stopping places worthy of notice was at the farm home of the late Joseph Smith
above Millpoint, who took care of many people and their horses and was known
as the home of Love, Hospitality and prayer by the traveling public. This was
in the days of the livery stable and the hack, at Hillsboro, T.F. Smith had a
back route from Hillsboro to Seebert. At Marlinton was a livery stable with

saddle horses and buggy horses which were hired out for trips all over the

county the first was operated by an Englishman by the name of Wilson his st-
able man was Tom Courtney, and from information available he was followed by
Anthony Kincaid about 1900 his drivers were his sons Jack and Rex following
Kincaid, came the Marlinton Feed and Livery Co. In which were the following men

Sawyers, Dillion, and our own native son the late W.A. McLaughlin of Marlinton.

Z. S. Smith Sr run a livery stable until the days of the automobile which was
about 1910. The late John D. Gay and Walter Mann operated a feed store and liv-
ery barn for a time. ~~Not~~ Not long after the automobile was introduced in the

county the livery stable along with the horses passed out of the picture, the

car has been the means of transportation for about 30 years but the aeroplane is
gaining popularity and about 1935 ground was obtained from D.W. Williams on the

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all back of the fair grounds on which to construct an air port, most of the work being done with relief workers, and today we find an aeroplane owned by Carl Sheets of Marlinton making almost daily runs about over the county mostly for pleasure, this plane no doubt is the first aeroplane to be bought in the county. Pocahontas County has many level fields from which aeroplanes can start and land therefore it seems that the use of aeroplanes in Pocahontas County is in its infancy, and it is thought by many that they will replace the automobile to a certain extent. Besides Carl Sheets, Walter Mason is learning to fly, and Z.S Smith III is in government service, his uncle Thomas Smith lost his life in government training about 1939, giving his life for the advancement of the Aeroplane in private life as well as defense.

Government mail planes pass over Pocahontas County daily and it is hoped that in the near future we will have Air Mail service out of the county.

Pocahontas County is served by the Pocahontas Telephone Company under the management of James Bear, their lines covering almost the entire area of the county, with 24 hour service through the Marlinton switch board throughout the county and WIKKX out of the county. Keeping this line up requires the services of many laborers, and it is by these lines that the lines of communication are kept going, this has meant a lot to the growth of the county, as both time and money have been saved by many of the non

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ation of the county, and at one time 80% or more of the homes of the County had a telephone but when the depression came along about 1931 many of them were taken out or cut off and at the present time most of the phones are found in the towns as many rural communities are without telephone service altogether or only one or two where there use to be from 30 to 40, but due to the small income of the farmers they were forced to discontinue the service that they so greatly needed, especially in cases of emergencies.

The two power lines that serve Pocahontas County The West Penn serves the upper half of the county while The Virginia Public Service serves the lower portion of the county, this has meant much to the county not only for lights but the many machines that it runs taking the drudgery out of much of the work regularly performed by members of the households, this has caused many electrical appliances to be sold most of which are sold by C.J. Richardsons hardware especially washing machines. Radios are found in most of the homes these are serviced by Ralph Dilley and Robert Patterson of Marlinton, with their radio shops

So be it said that electricity has meant much to the growth of the county besides the comfort and enjoyment that it brings.

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